

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Original claims 1-19 have been canceled, without prejudice, and new claims 20-22 have been added to more clearly recite the patentably distinguishing structural features of the elected embodiment shown in Fig. 15 of the present application.

New claim 20 essentially corresponds to the combined subject matter of original claims 1 and 5, new claim 21 essentially corresponds to the subject matter of original claim 6 (and also covers the embodiment shown in Fig. 16 of the present application), and new claim 22 essentially corresponds to the subject matter of original claim 12.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully submitted that the new claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the new claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1, 5, 6 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 3,671,810 ("Barnes et al"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to new claims 20-22.

According to the present invention as recited in new claim 20, an inductance component (105) is provided which comprises a U-shaped magnetic core (43) having a first magnetic leg (43c) and second magnetic leg (43b) and a magnetic gap (g) defined between the first and second magnetic legs (43c, 43b). As recited in new claim 20, a permanent magnet (107) is mounted on an end portion of the first magnetic leg (43c) in a vicinity of a closed magnetic circuit which passes through the magnetic gap (g) in the magnetic core (43), for generating a direct-current biased magnetic field, and a coil (45) is wound around the second magnetic leg (43b).

New claim 21, moreover, specifies that the permanent magnet is mounted on one of an end surface of the first magnetic leg (as shown in Fig. 15) and a side surface of the first magnetic leg (as shown in Fig. 16.), and new claim 22 recites a transformer comprising the inductance component according to claim 20.

Barnes et al cited by the Examiner, by contrast, merely discloses in Fig. 13 thereof a C-shaped core (90) defining a gap in which a permanent magnet (93) is positioned. As recognized by the Examiner, the C-shaped core (90) of Barnes et al comprises at least one (i.e, two) U-shaped portions. Neither U-shaped portion, however, corresponds to the U-shaped magnetic core (43) of the claimed present invention which has a magnetic gap (g) defined between a first magnetic leg (43c) and second magnetic leg (43b), a permanent magnet (107) mounted on an end portion of the first magnetic leg (43c), and a coil (45) wound around the

second magnetic leg (43b). This is because in Barnes et al, the magnetic gap is defined between respective legs of the two different U-shaped portions, and the permanent magnet is provided between the respective legs of the two different U-shaped portions and is not mounted on an end portion of either leg.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the structure disclosed in Fig. 13 of Barnes et al does not at all anticipate or render obvious the structure of the claimed present invention as recited in new claims 20-22.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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